



How to Rate Your Faith Community

(Adapted from criteria established by the Presbyterian Serious Mental Illness Network – PSMIN)

- 1. Does your congregation make a deliberate attempt to welcome and integrate persons with a serious mental illness and their families into the total life and work of the church without being obvious and setting them apart by:**
 - a. Being accepting, friendly, understanding and genuine?
 - b. Praying for those who have a mental illness the same way as for other illnesses?
 - c. Visiting and calling on the mentally ill person and by offering to help in little ways?
 - d. Offering support and love to the parents or family of the ill person, inquiring about the relative's health as one would for anyone who is ill?
 - e. Listening and talking with the mentally ill person?

- 2. Does your congregation use every opportunity to educate themselves and others about mental illness by:**
 - a. Encouraging clergy, lay staff and congregations to learn about mental illnesses?
 - b. Raising awareness of mental illness in sermons, bulletins and newsletters.
 - c. Adding books and other publications to the congregation's library?
 - d. Becoming familiar with local mental health services and support groups?

- 3. Does your congregation offer its facilities and/or resources to those having a serious mental illness and their families by:**
 - a. Hosting a group of people from a local facility?
 - b. Sponsoring a support group for them and/or their families?
 - c. Sponsoring a social club or drop-in-center?
 - d. Offering employment opportunities?

- 4. Does your congregation advocate for people with mental illness by:**
 - a. Working with other synagogues and organizations, such as the Mental Health Association and NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)?
 - b. Supporting efforts to obtain appropriate housing and jobs?
 - c. Not letting false, stigmatizing statements about mental illness go unchallenged?
 - d. Supporting adequate state and local budgets for mental health services?
 - e. Giving money for research into the causes and cure for mental illness?

- 5. Does your congregation undertake a ministry to, ministry with, and ministry by persons with serious mental illness and their families? Are they invited to serve as office bearers and on committees?**